

REMARKS

In complete response to the Official Action mailed March 20, 2002, please enter the amendments and remarks found herein into the official files pertaining to the above-referenced U.S. Patent Application.

Per this Amendment and Response, claims 1-11 and 25-29 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter defined therein. Claims 12-24 have been amended in accordance with requirements specified in the Office Action. Reconsideration of claims 12-24, as amended, along with the grant of a U.S. Patent are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that fees are due in regard to the submission of this paper. In particular, fees in the amount of \$460.00 in connection with the Petition for Extension of Time (3 Months) which has been submitted contemporaneously herewith. A grant of that Petition is earnestly requested.

The following remarks are submitted in complete response to the Office Action, and address in *seriatim* the merits of Office Action that require such response.

Cancellation of Claims 1-11 and 25-29:

Per the amendments presented herein, claims 1-11 and 25-29 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter defined therein. Such claims will appear in a Continuation type application to be filed in due course. Accordingly, such claims are withdrawn from further consideration in the instant application and further remarks herein are not necessary at this time.

Rejection of claims 12-24 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph:

At paragraph 1 on page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 12-24 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, allegedly as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

The Applicant respectfully TRAVERSES the Examiner's rejection and asserts the following remarks.

Claims 12-24 have been amended to better define the instant invention. Notwithstanding the amendments presented herein, an amendment suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action was not made. In particular, the Applicant did not amend claim 12 to include a limitation that the subscriber is associated with disparate devices. Such amendment was not made as the same is not required by the instant invention. A subscriber need not be associated with disparate devices as the Examiner so contends.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully asserted that the Examiner's rejections of claims 12-24 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, must be withdrawn. And, it is earnestly requested that claims 12-24, as amended, be allowed to issue in a U.S. Patent.

CONCLUSION:

In complete response to the Official Action mailed March 20, 2002, please enter the amendments and remarks found herein into the official files pertaining to the above-referenced U.S. Patent Application.

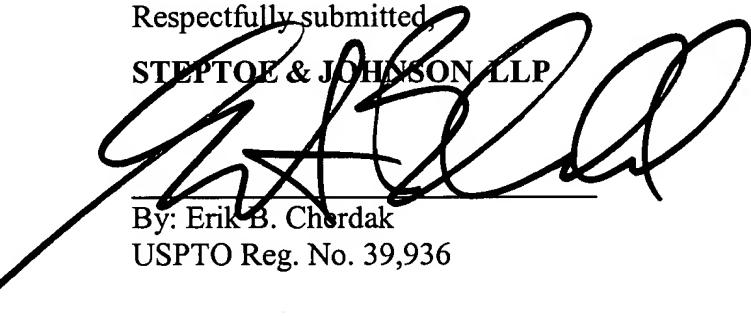
Per this Amendment and Response, claims 1-11 and 25-29 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter defined therein. Claims 12-24 have been amended

in accordance with requirements specified in the Office Action. Reconsideration of claims 12-24, as amended, along with the grant of a U.S. Patent are earnestly solicited.

It is believed that fees are due in regard to the submission of this paper. In particular, fees in the amount of \$460.00 in connection with the Petition for Extension of Time (3 Months) which has been submitted contemporaneously herewith. A grant of that Petition is earnestly requested.

If it is believed that a telephonic or in-person Examiner Interview will in any way expedite examination of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP


By: Erik B. Cherdak
USPTO Reg. No. 39,936

1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 429-6264
Facsimile: (202) 429-3902
Date: 9/19/02

APPENDIX

AMENDED CLAIMS (Without Annotations)

12. (Amended Once) A system for provisioning on-demand communications services and for consolidating billing data related to said services for a subscriber, comprising:

a network management facility communicating with and controlling disparate telecommunications devices within a telecommunications network, wherein said network management facility automatically configures and controls said disparate telecommunications devices within said network in real-time;

a database facility storing inventory data related to said disparate telecommunications devices within said network, said database facility also storing billing data generated by each of said disparate telecommunications devices; and an interface accessible via a network connection, coupled to said database facility and configured to access said network management facility via said network and to provision at least one of said disparate telecommunications devices to provide at least one communication service on-demand and in real-time based upon corresponding inventory data stored by said database facility, and to access said database facility to consolidate said billing data to generate a consolidated billing message.